The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 19, 1918.

How many unjust things are done from mere habit.—Terence.

WHOLE NO. 993. WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 1930. FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 20, NO. 6.

UNIONISTS UPHELD IN WAGE CUT FIGHT

Philadelphia, April 19.—A board of arbitration sustained a strike of H. C. Aberle Hosiery Mill employes against wage cuts. The board restored rates which approximate the union scale.

The employes are members of the American Federation of Full Fashioned Hosiery Workers.

The award includes a recommendation that an arbitrator be appointed to interpret any dispute that may arise over their decision. There now exists arbitration methods in the organized section of this industry which is available to both parties. This principle is approved by the arbitrators.

The award also provides that all workers shall be returned to work and available work divided up so as to give the 1,400 employes some wages each week. The union and its reasonableness is praised. Mill conditions, which the unionists objected to, should be improved in the interest of greater efficiency, the report states. The decision does not formally recognize the union, but the workers consider they have won a pronounced victory in view of injunction judges, police and other forces arrayed against them.

This struggle was marked by the dramatic funeral of Carl Mackley, who was killed by strikebreakers. More than 35,000 persons were present.

"YELLOW DOG" USED TO BLOCK UNIONISM

Washington, April 19.—How the "yellow dog" was used to secure an injunction against Indianapolis hosiery workers is explained by Emil Rieve, president American Federation Full Fashioned Hosiery Workers, in a letter to President Green.

The Indianapolis Federal District Court enjoined officers of the union from condemning trade relations with employes of the Real Silk Mills who signed a "yellow dog."

The company introduced testimony from a private detective that there was talk of a walkout at a meeting of these workers, who invited the official to attend.

"There was no evidence to show that the union asked any particular employe to join the union nor was it shown that the union had urged a walkout at this plant," said President Rieve.

"Nevertheless, an injunction was issued which, for all practical purposes makes it impossible for these employes to do anything that would improve their economic conditions."

CHILDREN'S LAW HIT BY SUPREME COURT

Lansing, Mich., April 19.—The rigidity of law was shown in a State Supreme Court decision which weakens the Michigan child labor law.

A child was employed by his father as a carpenter's helper. The child was working without a permit and under the law was awarded double liability when one of his eyes was injured.

The Aetna Life Insurance Company appealed the case and the Supreme Court ordered single liability on the ground that employment of children as carpenters' helpers without a permit is not specifically mentioned in the act.

The law is sweeping in its inclusion, but carpenters' helpers without a permit is not mentioned.

Opponents of the decision show that under this ruling children may be employed as deep-sea divers, structural iron and bridge workers, railway switchmen, tunnel workers and steeple-jacks.

STATE WILL SUPERVISE EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES

Frankfort, Ky., April 19.—Private employment agencies in Kentucky will be supervised by the State after July 1 next.

Under a new law the chief labor inspector is given wide powers in issuing and revoking permits to and for these agencies.

Especial attention will be paid to concerns that defraud workers by sending them to fictitious jobs or make false representations. Where a strike exists, the applicant must be so informed.

The law excludes supervision of labor agencies maintained by trade unions who secure employment for their own members, employment associations and teachers' agencies which supply positions for school teachers and nurses' registries.

FURNITURE MAKERS FIGHT PRISON GOODS

New York, April 19.—Prison-made furniture was opposed by the National Association of Furniture Manufacturers at their convention here.

An exception was made where the furniture is for the exclusive use of State and city institutions.

ACCIDENT COSTS UP

Columbus, Ohio, April 19.—The cost of accidents in this State last year increased 17 per cent over 1928, according to a report by the Ohio Industrial Commission.

These figures only refer to benefits paid beneficiaries of injured workmen.

U. S. SHIP YARD SOLD

Philadelphia, April 19.—The government sold its famous Hog Island shipyard of war-time days to this city for $3,000,000. This is $50,000,000 less than it cost.

The property will be used for a marine, air and rail terminal.

PUBLIC IGNORES SOCIAL WASTES CREATED BY MACHINE

The campaign against chain stores is being given wide sympathy on the ground that small business men are ruined and are forced into the unemployed ranks.

The boycott and taxation are leading remedies that chain store opponents propose.

No one denies the chains' devastating effect on the distribution field, but what would happen if labor took the same position against automatic machines on the production field?

It is self-evident that the automatic machine dispenses with labor. That is its purpose.

Students of present-day conditions might well inquire if wastes that the automatic machine eliminates offsets the social wastes that it creates.

This social waste is caused by unemployment, out of which come a whole train of other evils that affect every element of society.

Unemployment means preventable sickness and premature death, poverty, undernourishment, child labor, increased illiteracy and lack of purchasing power to relieve markets that are flooded by the machine.

Unemployment deadens man's creative faculties, pride in craftsmanship and his morale as a citizen. These priceless national assets are replaced by the automatic machine—yet its influence which has already killed the joy of artistry in labor.

It is impossible to compute the cost of these losses to society and to the individual or to estimate the direct and indirect tax on the nation because of unemployment and its evils.

These charges will mount higher and higher because of unemployment insurance and old-age pensions that are inevitable.

We are blind to monumental social wastes that the automatic machine creates. We worship the mechanical engineer and inventor. We are joyful over their mastery of production waste, but ignore social consequences of this new Frankenstein that threatens to control man.

It is useless, at this stage of our development, to suggest a remedy—even were this possible. Our present effort should be to stimulate thought on the direction in which we are headed.

Cleric Praises Organized Labor; Straddlers Not Wanted in Unions

Rochester, N. Y., April 19.—A eulogy to organized labor, pronounced by Rev. Dr. Edward A. Walsh of Washington, D. C., was overlooked" by local daily newspapers that reported a mass meeting called to protest against soviet intolerance of the rights of religious freedom.

Dr. Walsh said:

"But happily there is another group which by reason of its origin and the purpose of its existence has no place for straddlers, dabblers and intellectual dilettantes. It has not flinched in its duty to the common welfare and to the greatness of our citizenry which it represents.

"It is a subject for supreme congratulation that in this conflict between justice and inequity, between freedom of the spirit and slavery of the soul, the A. F. of L. has been found unclouded in vision and courage. I deem it a debt of honor to pay public tribute to the leadership of the enlightened and unswerving loyalty to the best interests of the working man which has kept the Federation and like a sword of granite against every insidious attempt, both within and without, to communize it."

WHAT LAW DID PARKER UPHOLD?

Reactionary newspapers affect sorrow at labor's opposition to Judge Parker's appointment.

"Labor should not place itself in the position of favoring violation of law," say these editors.

What Congress has declared the "yellow dog" is legal?

These editors confuse law and equity.

They fail to distinguish between a statute and a declaration by an injunction judge.

Judge Parker did more than support the "yellow dog." In his decision he went out of his way to inform any one who is interested that he is a conservative of the back-number sort. And vested interests and their newspaper ballyhoos who believe the world does not revolve, have noted that fact.

To muddy the waters, they talk about law, when in truth they mean the act of an injunction judge who is guided solely by his conscience.

It is significant that this approval of the "yellow dog" is the one reason Parker's friends insist he should be a Supreme Court judge. They do not discuss his juristic qualifications.

Hoover Defends Parker's Rule; Green Renews Attack On Judge

Washington, April 19.—That organized labor's opposition to the appointment of Judge Parker has affected the White House is indicated by the President's publication of a defense of that appointment to the Supreme Court.

This unusual course is in the form of a memorandum issued by the attorney general—also a presidential appointee—who explains that Judge Parker's "yellow dog" ruling in Red Jacket case was proper.

President Green, who is leading the Parker opposition, issued a supplemental statement in which he said the appointee's confirmation by the Senate would cause widespread indignation and "shake the confidence of the masses of the people in the Federal courts." Mr. Green had previously appealed to the President to withdraw the appointment.

That this is no ordinary fight is indicated by the presence at the capitol of a high official of the Department of Justice who is lobbying for the appointment. Senators frankly declare the appointment is unwise; that Judge Parker has antagonized millions of citizens by his decision and his lack of judicial bias in making the Red Jacket decision, and that he has not indicated any especial qualification for the position.

The appointment will be discussed at length when it reaches the Senate floor, and the result will be a wider understanding of the vicious "yellow dog."

President Green, in his latest statement, said that it is inconceivable that a man who has shown such judicial bias against the nation's workers should be elevated to the Supreme Court.

"The confirmation of Judge Parker would shake the confidence of the masses of the people in the Federal courts and would create wide-spread labor indignation," said Mr. Green, who added that reports to A. F. of L. headquarters show that working people throughout the country are aroused as never before.

"It is reasonable to conclude," said Mr. Green, "that if Judge Parker became a member of the Supreme Court there would be widespread hopeless opposition his views and opinions so hostile to labor and so destructive of human rights as shown in the Red Jacket decision."

GUARANTEED WORK URGED BY COUZENS

New York, April 19.—A guarantee of employment or an assured all-year wage basis for labor to prevent business depressions is favored by Senator Couzens of Michigan. Under present conditions, labor is pictured as the "the innocent bystander who gets the bumps."

He predicts that there will be further depressions "if our business leaders dawdle along as they have so far."

In an interview in a business magazine, the Senator said American business men do not take enough chances on new ideas and lack sufficient initiative, intelligence, foresight and "mental area," due to this he attributes the recent business crash.

"Sooner or later business will have to make a clear choice between voluntary initiative or State compulsion in protecting and stabilizing the purchasing power of labor," the Senator said, adding that there is no way to do this unless business frankly and voluntarily accepts the principle that wages should be a fixed overhead charge on industry to which it will have to adjust its production and marketing program and its profitable costs.

"To treat wages in this way—either by guaranteeing employment or by guaranteeing income by paying workers on a yearly salary basis—will enable business to control intelligently, force it to greater efficiency, and, above all, will control output so as to avoid ruinous overproduction that brings depression."

FARM WAGES DROP

Washington, April 19.—Farm wages on April 1 were the lowest for the past eight years, according to the Department of Agriculture.

"This situation," it is stated, "is a reflection of the larger supply of farm labor due to the small volume of industrial employment at the present time."

DEFEAT PRISON MARK

Boston, April 19.—An attempt to compel prison-made goods manufactured in this State to be labeled as such was defeated in the House by a vote of 111 to 93. The State collects $100,000 for these goods, and the lawmakers ignored the principle involved.

CARPENTERS RAISE WAGE

Albuquerque, N. Mex., April 19.—Organized carpenters raised wages to $10 a day for a five-day week.

NATION'S INDUSTRIES NOT OWNED BY PUBLIC

New York, April 19.—The illusion of popular control of industry through widely divers fied stock ownership has been jolted by the fight over the merger of the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company with the Bethlehem Steel Corporation.

This fight was between two gigantic forces led by Cyrus H. Eaton, who opposed the merger, and A. J. Campbell, chairman of the Youngstown board, who favored it.

"Wall Street laughs at the fiction created by a certain class of economists that the common people control industry," says George Van Cleve, in a copyright article to a newspaper syndicate.

"The iron hand still reposes in the velvet glove," writes Mr. Parton. "The populace may mill around a lot and think it is doing some heavy participating, but the final issue, now as in the past, is a showdown among a handful of big-shot financiers.

"A new era of democratic control in finance was heralded several years ago by Dr. Thomas Nixon Carver of Harvard University in his book, 'The Present Economic Revolution in the United States.' Now the magnificent strides in production and mass financing hailed Prof. Carver as the John the Baptist of a new economic era in findings regarding the extent of the spread of security holdings have since been sharply challenged.

"Under the momentum of unflagging prosperity and a bull market there was plausibility in the general thesis of widening popular control, but the let-down has served to again turn the spotlight on personalities, individual powers and compulsions, rather than on statistics and theories."

FORD PILED UP PROFIT MORE THAN 81 MILLION

Boston, April 19.—Profits of $81,797,861 for 1929 are indicated in a report filed by the Ford Motor Company with the Massachusetts Commissioner of Corporations.

This is equal to $473.79 a share on the 172,645 shares of stock, all of which is held by Henry Ford, his wife and his son, Edsel Ford.

These profits are exclusive of dividends paid on the stock. Such payments are not announced as the company is privately owned and is not required to file a detailed financial statement.

WALKER RESIGNS

Springfield, Ill., April 19.—John Walker, for 15 years president Illinois Federation of Labor, resigned. He was recently elected secretary-treasurer of an organization in Indiana that was started by a group of miners that is outside the recognized United Mine Workers of America.

GOVERNMENT BY "LEISURE CLASS" IS FEDERAL EDUCATOR'S PROGRAM

New York, April 19.—William J. Cooper, United States Commissioner of Education, wants a leisure class created who will run our government.

This plea for abandonment of the American ideal was made by the nation's educational director to a conference of 500 students of teachers' training institutions.

Mr. Cooper said that the life of the British empire depends upon the efforts of an aristocratic governing class and he suggested that a class with similar functions may evolve in this country from among those who give their lives to teaching.

"We must have a leisure class like the aristocracy of Great Britain which has fitted itself to meet the problems of that world-wide organization," he said.

IMPORTING WORKERS; IDLE ISSUE "STUDIED"

Omaha, Neb., April 19.—Various social agencies are "studying" the employment problem while the Union Pacific Railroad and other low-wage corporations flood the city with job-seekers.

The Union Pacific maintains a company "union" among shop employes. Dues for this "union" are taken from pay envelopes. If a worker objects he finds himself on the streets. The corporation is engaged in a huge building program in Omaha and company "union" policies are applied to wages and working conditions.

Influx of idle from other sections intimidates employes who are forced to accept the long work day and starvation wages.

ORGANIZING CREWS ON PENNSY RAILWAY

Altoona, Pa., April 19.—The company "union" on the Pennsylvania railroad is not holding its own with the organizing campaign of standard shop organizations affiliated to A. F. of L.

The union activity followed a promise made by President Atterbury of the railroad to President Green and President Wharton of the International Association of Machinists that there will be no discrimination against trade union employes.

Petty bosses are carefully whispering to workers that they are liable to lose their jobs, but union buttons are being worn and employes are accepting trade union offices.

"BREAKERS" ANGRY WHEN WAGES ARE CUT

Pittsburgh, April 19.—Strikebreakers employed by the Yellow Cab Company are angry at the company's lack of appreciation.

The strikebreakers were paid $8 a day and 40 per cent of meter receipts when they started last month. The strikebreakers were joyful over their gold mine, but they were ignorant of the part all traitors play. They believed the management's assurance of peace and harmony.

Wages have since been cut to $5 a day and now the strikebreakers are mad clear through. The employers refuse to pay "a bonus" to men who understand the function of strikebreakers, if this gentry does not.

TEACHERS ARE ACTIVE

Chicago, April 19.—"The American Federation of Teachers is in the front rank of trade union activity," reports Florence Curtis Hanson, secretary-treasurer of that organization.

Organizing campaigns are on in Wisconsin, California, Illinois and Pennsylvania and the teachers are aiding the Southern movement.

"The acute financial crisis in Chicago has awakened teachers outside our ranks to their helplessness and they are uniting with our Federation," said Mrs. Hanson.

WANT SIX-DAY WEEK

Baton Rouge, La., April 19.—The need for a six-day week in the oil fields was called to the attention of President Hoover by the annual convention of the Louisiana Federation of Labor.

President Swallow was re-elected and Lake Charles was selected as the next convention city.

RETAIL CLERKS UNITE

Lewiston, Mont., April 19.—Retail clerks organized and are affiliated to the trade union movement.

IDLENESS INCREASES, BUT AT SLOWER RATE

Albany, N. Y., April 19.—Employment in representative New York State factories continued to decline in March, but at a much slower rate, according to the State Department of Labor.

This present downward movement is contrary to the usual spring gains, said Industrial Commissioner Frances Perkins. March is usually the month of greatest activity in the spring season, she said.

HOOVER PROCLAIMS MAY 1 AS CHILD DAY

Washington, April 19.—President Hoover has proclaimed May 1 as Child Health Day and calls upon the health, welfare and social agencies "to assist every reasonable effort and their communities to make this a day for organizing and co-ordinating interest in child health."

The President's action is under authority of an act of Congress.

"While applied science and invention have given us world leadership in mechanical processes, we shall fall short of our highest aspirations if we fail to practice all that science can give in service of our fundamental asset—our children," the President states.

"Our children have the right to be born in health, to be well throughout babyhood and the pre-school years; to be surrounded with moral and spiritual inspiration; to work and to play through primary school with well minds based on well bodies; to enjoy and to grow to the utmost by their higher schooling because of wholesome habits of thought and deed; and to enter into life strong in body and inculcated with the sense of fair play and of responsibility for the rights of others."

CURB ON MACHINES TO AID IDLE URGED

New York, April 19.—The introduction of machinery should be withheld by employers until an attempt is made to secure work for displaced employes, said Miss Frances Perkins, State Industrial Commissioner, in an address to the City League of Women Voters.

The commissioner said that labor-saving devices are chiefly responsible for periodic slumps in employment.

MOBS CAN BE CHECKED BY "HUMANE" GAS BOMB

Washington, April 19.—The War Department announces a new tear gas bomb which was perfected, it is stated, at the request of prison authorities. The new device will produce a gas cloud of high concentration. The rioter will be immediately made helpless.

"The new grenades were some what slow in ignition and the gas was generated slowly," the War Department states. "The new device ignites so rapidly after leaving the hand that by the time it hits the ground it is giving off its fumes in great quantities. The test of these 'candles' will be watched with greatest interest not only by the army but by civil authorities, who agree that tear gas is a most effective and humane method of quelling riots and similar disturbances.

SLUMP IS WORLD WIDE

New York, April 19.—The present business slump is not confined to the United States, but is world wide, according to the monthly bulletin of the National City Bank.

"The world's industries have more than recovered their pre-war capacity, but the markets are overloaded with staple goods," the bulletin states.

OLD-AGE RELIEF BILL SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

Albany, N. Y., April 19.—Governor Roosevelt signed the Mastick-Bernhardt old-age security bill that was unanimously approved by the State Legislature.

The law provides that persons who reach or pass the age of 70 shall receive financial aid which the State and county shall jointly provide. A person must be a citizen of the United States and must have resided in the State for 10 years and in the county one year. There is no minimum or maximum of relief to be afforded except that the State is limited to paying $20 a month.

Governor Roosevelt, in signing the bill, pointed out what he believed to be several defects, and indicated that this is but a step forward. He said this law "is essentially merely an extension and improvement of the old poor law, for the principal part of its administration is left in the hands of local officials and the supervision by State authorities is far from strong.

"Furthermore, it has always been the thought of the framers to provide for, as well as the practice in most countries where old age security legislation is far in advance of ours, that a definite incentive should be given to men and women during their younger years, by the saving of money from their earnings or their inheritances so that it give them not merely assurance that they will not be a burden in their old age but also assurance that they will be able to live in comparative ease and comfort, and this feature of the problem is wholly omitted from the present act. I sincerely hope that the State will next year improve this law and make it real old age security legislation."

EMPLOYERS LOSE FIGHT AGAINST WAGNER BILL

Washington, April 19.—The National Association of Manufacturers lost their fight against Senator Wagner's bill for the establishment of a national employment system and for co-operation with the States in the establishment of such systems.

This measure is the third of three unemployment relief bills proposed by Mr. Wagner. The others provide for long range public building and for more accurate unemployment data.

The manufacturers opposed interference with the present system of gouging private employment agencies. The Senate committee ignored opposition until the manufacturers were heard.

They then voted to report the disputed bill.

MACHINE MAY PICK U. S. COTTON CROP

Chicago, April 19.—Hand-picked cotton is doomed, according to an interview with Chester Morrill, president International Harvester Company.

In the remarks accompanying his annual report he said: "Constant progress is being made by the company's engineering staff in the development of cotton pickers and strippers, and recent field tests indicate that these machines should soon become of practical benefit to planters."

Such a machine would displace thousands of low-wage workers in the South.

"More Organizers In South"; Call Indicates Progress Made

Birmingham, Ala., April 19.—"We have more calls for organizers that we can provide," said Paul J. Smith, chairman A. F. of L. Southern campaign committee.

"In the Birmingham district alone," said Mr. Smith, "there are 128,000 workers, skilled and unskilled, and only the surface has been touched, as far as unionization is concerned.

"We need all the organizing help we can get, if we are to spread the gospel of trade unionism before industrial autocrats become entrenched in the South."

Trade unionists in this section call attention to mighty social changes that are taking place South of the Ohio River. These changes, they insist, will affect every other locality.

As indicative of the value of trade union activity the unionists point to the revolt of more than 5,000 Danville textile workers against the company "union." Another "straw" is the reduction of hours favored by the convention of the Georgia Cotton Manufacturers Association which voted to reduce the work week of 60-72 hours to 55-55 hours without wage reductions.

A number of central bodies in Southern strategic centers have been organized with from eight to 12 affiliates and similar organizations are being formed.

Southern barbers report practically 100 per cent union. Other crafts are active, while textile workers are rejoining a 10 per cent union.

Machinists in Charlotte united, and laundry workers seek organization. In Greensboro, Petersburg and Roanoke where the machinists, auto mechanics, printers, painters and other craftsmen seek charters.

In Tennessee the painters, plumbers, sheet metal workers, machinists, barbers, street railway men, switchmen and other workers are being organized or have already formed unions.

"This list could be continued at length," said Chairman Smith. "The South is ready for trade union organization."

Labor's Claim For Radio Right Is Opposed By Air Monopolists

Washington, April 19.—Refusal of the Federal Radio Commission to grant an unlimited channel to labor station WCFL, Chicago, tends to establish the theory of vested rights in the use of radio facilities, said Hope Thompson, attorney for the labor station, in urging the District of Columbia Court of Appeals to set aside the commission's decision. There are 90 cleared channels, and labor asks one.

"In effect," said Mr. Thompson, "the commission holds that a license having once been granted, must not be disturbed—an attitude directly contrary to the letter and the spirit of the radio law, and clearly against the public interest."

The law provides that radio licenses shall be granted on the basis of "public interest, necessity and convenience."

In a brief filed by attorneys for the labor station, the requirements and purpose of the law are explained.

"The public interest, necessity and convenience," it is stated, "requires that radio broadcasting provide not only entertainment, but information; not only music, but science, history, economics and all the other things that make for human welfare. It requires that the serious problems of life shall be presented, not from one group or one viewpoint only, but from many groups and many points of view.

"Is it in the public interest, necessity and convenience that this marvelous new means of communication should be placed within the control of a few great corporations? Or should it be free gift to a few private business concerns for commercial exploitation? Or should into the power of the metropolitan newspapers, already in uncontrolled possession of power that threatens the liberties of the country?

"Is the public interest, necessity and convenience to be determined by the accident of geography?

"The public interest, necessity and convenience is nation wide. It is age long. It has to do with the physical, mental, moral, social and economic welfare of all the people. It is not greatly concerned with Bill Jones' garage, or the private profit which a station owner hopes to derive from his broadcasting operations. It is not enhanced by the granting of special favors of a few individuals or corporations, however rich and powerful they may be."